

Appl. No. 10/043,908
Docket No. 2103461-991100
Response to Office Action of September 24, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-8, 20-23, and 33-54 are pending. Claim 6 has been amended, and claims 9-13, 17-19, 24-27, 31-32 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claim 24 Under § 112

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the term "drinking hole" lacks antecedent basis. Claim 24 has been cancelled. However, allowed claim 6 also erroneously recites "drinking hole". Claim 6 has been amended to properly recite "drinking opening". The Applicant's respectfully submit that this amendment does not require a new search.

2. Rejection of Claims 9-11, 18-19, 24-27 Under § 102(b)

Claims 9-11, 18-19, and 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,431,390 (Waller).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to further expedite the allowance of the present application, these claims have been cancelled from the present application, and will be pursued in a continuation application.

3. Rejection of Claims 12-13, 17, 31-32 Under § 103(a)

Claims 12-13, 17, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waller in view of U.S. Patent 6,079,588 (Khafizov).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to further expedite the allowance of the present application, these claims have been cancelled from the present application, and will be pursued in a continuation application.

All rejected claims have been cancelled from the present application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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